



Joe C. Duffield
1212 Louisiana Avenue
Libby, MT 59923
Phone 406-293-6685

August 18, 2003

Ms. Karen Ekstrom
CDM
28 N Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601

Regarding: EPA clean-up work

Dear Ms. Ekstrom:

This letter includes my report of the EPA work on the removal of what they call vermiculite containing soil (V.C.S.)—I know it as asbestosis contamination.

Months ago they tested my buildings and soil and informed me that it was present in both, the soil and the buildings. On March 2003 I was moved to the Venture Inn Motel so that they could clean my house, shop, and two garages. On April 1, 2003 the EPA moved me back into my home. They were all moved out and they did a very nice job; I was satisfied. The EPA told me that they would return later and clean the grounds, they did not know when and said it might be as late as this coming fall.

As I am up in years and have a bad back, which limits my activity, I got busy in readying my yard. I got it thatched and prepared it so that I would have to water once a week, and not have to do any trimming. I had some raspberries that were well established as well as flowers my wife had planted years ago. On, or about, June 9th the EPA returned saying they were going to clean my yard. They said the flowers, raspberries, and shrubs would have to be dug up. They said they would replant everything, just as it was before being dug up; and that if anything died or failed to grow they would replace it with same kind of plant or a better one. They said that they were going to dig out the old, or contaminated, dirt down 12 to 18 inches. This soil would be hauled out and replaced with VCS clean soil.

Upon asking them what I would gain from this and what it would cost me. I was informed that it would be of no cost to me, but that it would raise the value of my property thousands of dollars.

On June 7th I was moved to the Venture Inn. I drove by my place on a daily basis so that I could personally see what was being done. On the first day there was a trail of 4 foot by 8 foot plywood panel lying end-to-end all the way around the house. They laid there for a week or more while ditches, 2 feet wide, were dug completely around the house, the sidewalks, along the fences, the raspberry patch, and flower beds. The plants and bushes were lying in what appeared to be a plastic tub and stayed dug up and in that container for a week or more in the summer heat.

Work stopped for several days, they said no one would be working and just the guards would be there.

On June 18th word was left for me at the Venture Inn that I was to move back at 5 p.m. Upon my arrival home the first load of dirt was being dumped in the aforementioned ditches (around the house, sidewalks, fences, raspberry patch, and flower bed). Yellow tape had been placed along the sidewalk all the way from the garage to the house and I was to stay within those boundaries. I felt like a prisoner in my own home. I felt they should have let me stay at the Venture Inn for three or more days. I complained to the boss, but she said they would be done in a day.

On June 25th the EPA laid down the new sod and the next day moved the majority of their things.

Upon seeing what they did I truly got sick. In all the years I have lived never have I seen such terrible, sloppy, and poor work. If I did work like that on a job, I would have been promptly fired.

The sod was 2 to 3 inches lower than the rest of the lawn (what there was left of it). In places where they should have put sod there was nothing, just holes, bare spots, and space between the sod. The original lawn, that they left, which had the plywood planks on it was dead or near dying after being covered all that time without, sun, water, or air. As if that wasn't bad enough, they just about trampled what life it might have had left. Apparently they did as they were told, were in no hurry to do it, nor did they care how it was done—just as long as it was supposedly done.

I was never consulted about how I might like to have things done, even though it was my property. They pulled out without repairing the damage that was done. Damage was done to the house and they refused to fix it. I called the boss and she came out and looked at it. I asked her if it was her house what would she do about it, she replied she would surely do something. I showed her what needed to be done.

She sent out some workers, who did a little bit and left. I called her again and she came and looked and again sent more workers. This went on several times. Some of the things never did get fixed.

Now I must water the lawn on a daily basis, this takes me over three hours, six days a week, which is much more work than I had to do before they came. Water is not cheap, and the price continues to climb. As a result many of my neighbors, and others all over town, have had to let their lawns burn.

My neighbors tell me I will have to wait until spring, pay to have good soil brought in and placed on the sod (that is several inches lower than the rest of the lawn that they did not remove) and maybe the grass will grow through. If not I will have to plant it.

As for the raspberries, the vast majority have died. The flowers, are not coming up. The shrubs and plants that were formerly in the front of the house—that were dug up—have died. They replaced some with smaller plants (a completely different type) and are just starting to grow. It will be years before they be the size of what were there. They were supposed to bring in good top soil, but instead it was replaced with clay dirt.

I am not say that they stole from me, but the truth is that things are missing. Things such as pencils, sprinklers, pails, etc. This basically happened when they were cleaning the house and other buildings.

Now I am going to ask you a question that my neighbor asked me, and maybe you can answer it for us. The south side of my house is 11 feet from the neighbor's fence. The EPA removed 2 feet wide strips of soil from around the house and the fence. This left 7 feet of soil that the EPA did not touch. If the 2 foot wide strips of soil was contaminated—and I was told it was—how did the 7 feet of soil in the middle remain clean, if indeed it is clean? Of course that is the part of the lawn that they so desperately seemed to want to kill.

I do not know who is to blame, the bosses, the workers, or both—however, I do know that it is a very, very sloppy piece of work that was done. It is going to be quite expensive for me to try and make right all the many things that were done wrong and a lot of work that I will have to do. The ground is so uneven and full of holes that I do not feel safe walking in my own yard. I am fearful of falling and injuring myself.

The property looks much worse since the EPA came. The property value did not go up, as they said it would, but has decreased by thousands of dollars. As for all the watering I have had to do I feel I should be reimbursed for the expense of the water. If they had stayed away my water bill would not have been so expensive. I did not ask them to come, they forced their way in saying that when they were done the place would look better and the value would go up. Neither one happened and in fact if anything it has decreased the value and it certainly looks worse.

Since June 25 until July 25th I watered the lawn on a daily basis and since every other day. If I had not used all this copious amount of water the lawn would be dead. This amounts to 4 weeks at 6 days a week, 3 hours at a time for a total of 72 hours. I have no idea how much it will cost to fill in the low areas where the sod is.

I was told that the work was not done by contractor, but by the EPA and that they were government workers.

I look forward to having all of this corrected properly and as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Duffield". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Joe Duffield

Enclosure

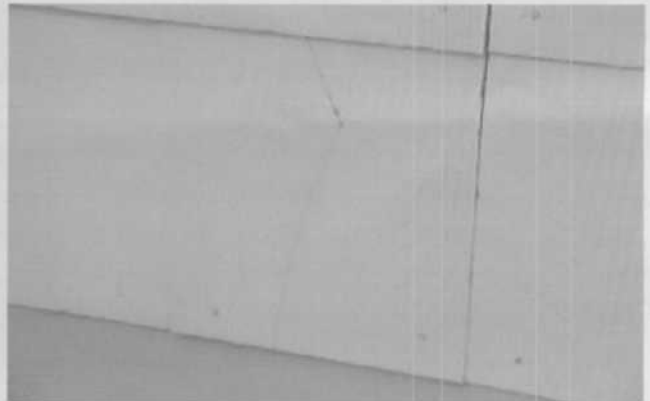
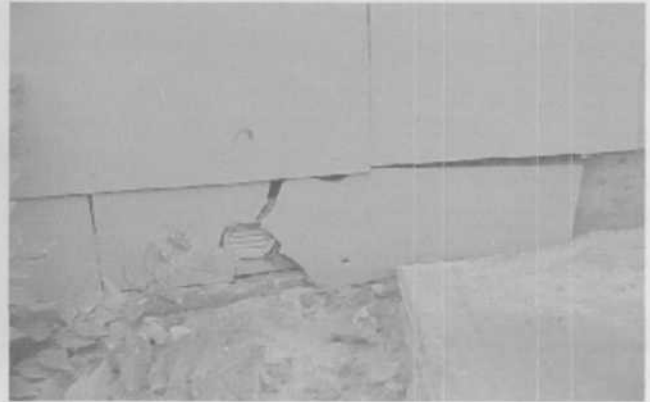
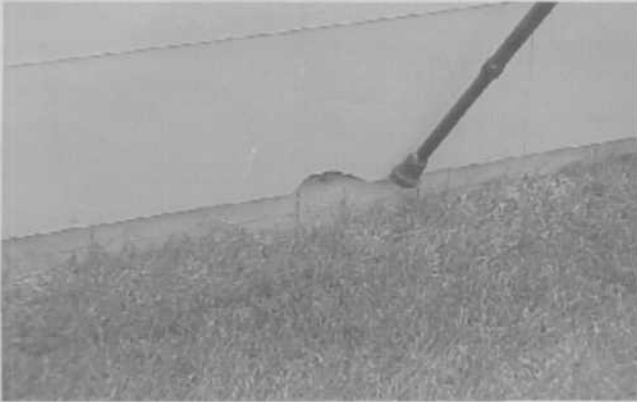
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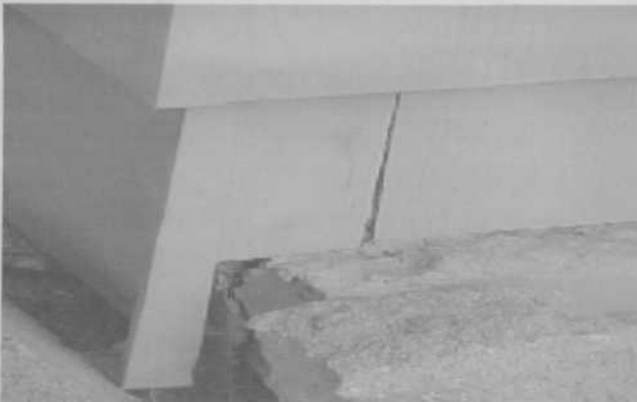
To view the actual images, please
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Center at (303) 312-6473.

HOUSE SIDING CHIPPED

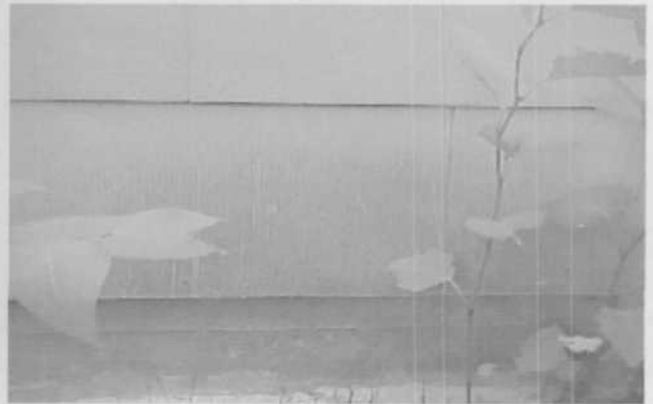
Joe Duffield ; 1212 Louisiana Avenue ; Libby, MT



CHIPPED HOUSE SIDING
Page 2

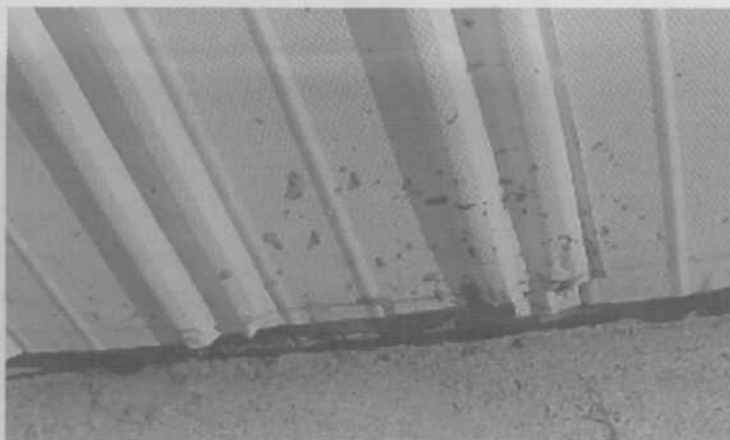
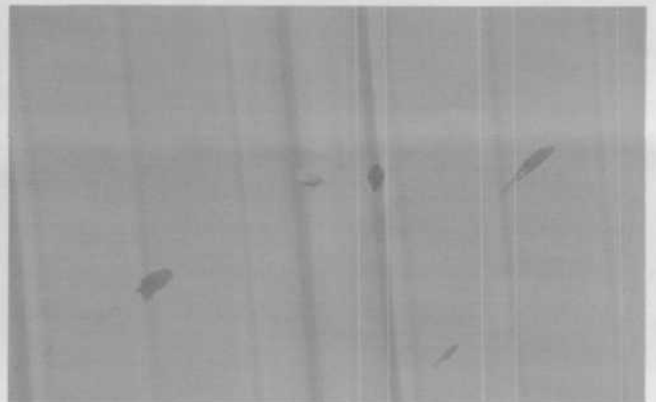
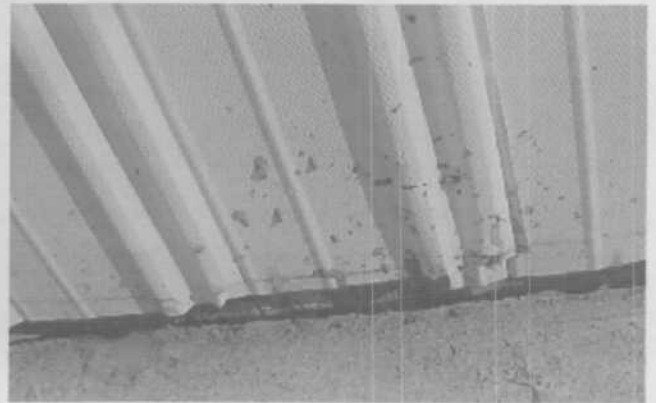
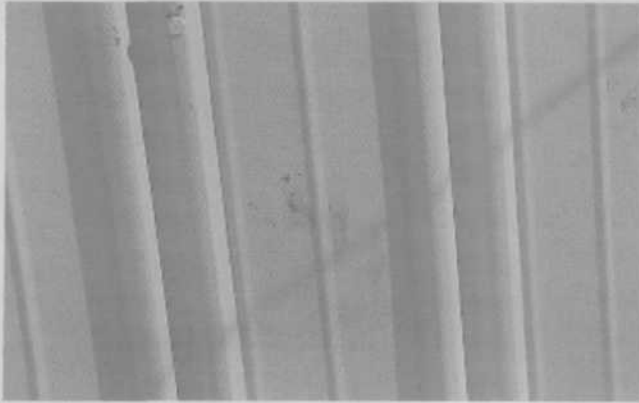


CHIPPED SIDING & SOILING



WHAT'S THIS ---A RODENT SHELTER?

CEMENT SPLASHED ALL OVER—COMPLETE WITH HAND PRINT



SUCH THICK GLOBS THAT THEY CASTS A SHADOW

TOP SOIL REPLACED WITH CLAY DIRT AND GRAVEL





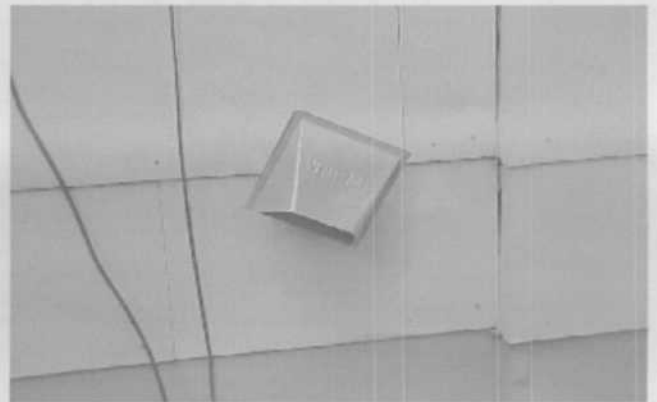
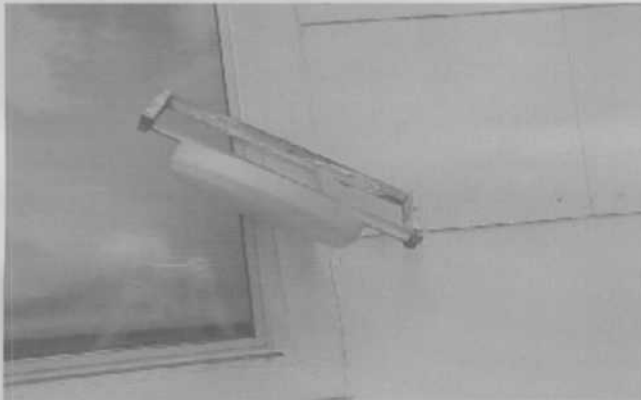
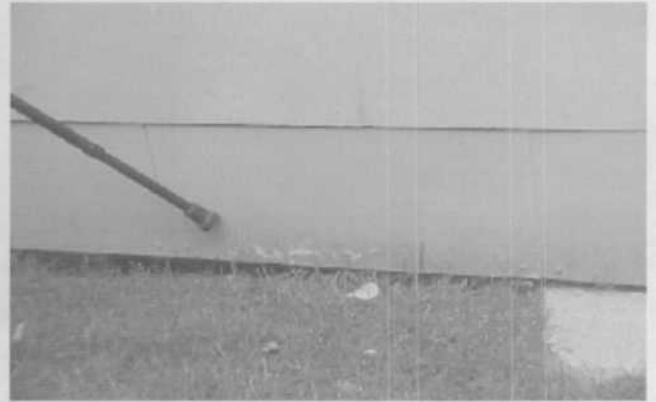
THAT'S NOT ALL—MORE CLAY—AND DEAD RASPBERRIES—DEAD
ROSE (THRIVING WEEDS THOUGH)



AND NOW FOR THE ONCE ESTABLISHED FLOWER BED THAT TOOK
YEARS TO ESTABLISH AND A FEW SHORT DAYS TO DEMOLISH



SLOPPY WORKS CONTINUES ON AND ON AND ON



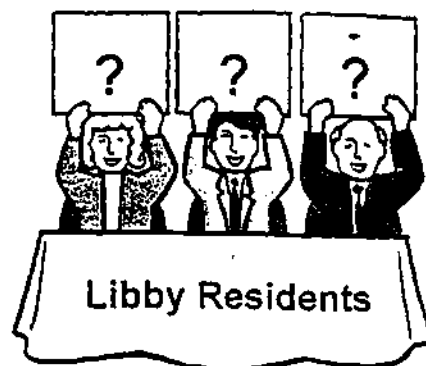
VERY ROUGH GROUND—IN FACT DANGEROUS
ALL REPLACED SOD IS UNEVEN AND SLOPES DOWN TO THE
BUILDINGS. THUS ALLOWING WATER TO COLLECT BY THE BUILDINGS



NOTE THE TAPE MEASURE AND HOW IT SLOPES RIGHT TO THE
HOUSE

I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING ALL OF THIS CORRECTED PROPERLY
AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

We Need Your Feedback!



Dear Libby Resident:

The remediation and restoration activities that were completed at your property were designed to remove the significant potential sources of Libby Amphibole asbestos from your property, thereby eliminating any potentially significant asbestos-related health threats and concerns for you and for future property owners.

We would appreciate it if you could take a few moments to provide feedback on your relocation and the remediation/restoration work that was completed on your property. We are constantly evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of our work, and your responses will help us in determining what is working well and what we might need to modify. When you are finished, please return the survey in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you wish, you may remain anonymous.

Name (optional): Joe C. Duffield

Rating scale: 1= strongly agree 2= agree 3= disagree 4=strongly disagree

Relocation Issues

(please circle one)

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | The on-site Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) was friendly and helpful. |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | The relocation handouts I was given were useful. |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | My questions were answered by the CIC in a timely manner. |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | I had no problems getting in touch with the CIC. |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | The CIC contacted me as often as I would have liked. |
| 1 | 2 | (3) | 4 | The CIC worked to solve any problems I had (forgotten items, schedule, etc.). |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | My family and I were treated with courtesy and respect during the relocation. |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | I was well informed of my choices for relocation (hotel, RV, friend's home, etc.). |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | (4) | I was well informed about the expected length of my relocation and was kept informed of any changes. |
| The hotel where I was relocated met my standards for: | | | | |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | cleanliness, |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | comfort, |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | safety. |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | The reimbursement paperwork was completed with minimal effort on my part. |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | I received my reimbursement within a reasonable time frame (21 days). |
| 1 | (2) | 3 | 4 | The per diem rate was sufficient for my family |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | The reimbursement policies were fair and appropriate. |

Remediation and Restoration Issues

(please circle one)

- 1 2 **3** 4 I was well informed about the scope of the remediation/restoration.
- 1 **2** 3 4 The specifics of the restoration were documented in writing and provided to me.
- 1 2 3 **4** My concerns about the work were addressed to my satisfaction.
- 1 2 3 **4** I felt comfortable with the capabilities of the contractors.
- 1 2 **3** 4 My neighbors were informed of what was happening on my property.
- 1 2 3 **4** I was kept informed of any changes to the schedule for remediation/restoration.
- 1 **2** 3 4 I am impressed by the health and safety precautions taken on my property.
- 1 2 3 **4** I realize that not all of my possessions could be decontaminated and I am satisfied with how those decisions were made.
- 1 2 3 **4** I believe the work done on my property was of high quality.
- 1 2 3 **4** My property was restored to a condition equal to or better than its previous condition.
- 1 2 3 **4** I am satisfied with the work done on my property.
- 1 2 3 **4** I am glad my property was remediated/restored.

Please use the space below if you'd like to elaborate on any answers or provide suggestions.

I will use another sheet of paper as I have much to let you know about,
please read all of it. JCD

Thank you!